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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY

Spain/Yugoslavia

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SUBJECT

Biographical Data on Spanish

Visitors to Yugoslavia

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

The following individuals were members of a Spanish Commission which went to Yugoslavia in early September 1950 at the invitation of the TITO Government. The Spanish Commission was organized by the dissident Communist group, Accion Socialista, and although avowedly non-partisan was ignored by most of the Spanish exiles except ex-Communist and extreme left-wing elements.

1. Members of Accion Socialista:

- Francisco Felix MONTIEL Jimenez, leader of Accion Socialista currently teaching in Paris. According to source, MONTILL has great political ambition and is a thorough opportunist. During his youth MONTIEL deserted the ranks of the Spanish Socialist Party and became a Communist when he saw better opportunities for advancement in the latter party. In 1936 he was a Communist deputy in the Cortes, having been elected as a member of the Popular Front. In Moscow MONTIEL became a member of the Jesus HERNANDEZ Tomas and Enrique CASTRO Delgado faction, which opposed the election of Dolores IBARRURI Gomez as Secretary General of the Partido Comunista Español (PCE). (F-5)* In spite of MONTTEL's Communist background, source believed that he might ultimately accept an important position in a rightist party. MONTIFI., according to source, is a prudent individual and a good orator who speaks French as well as Spanish. The son of middle class Catholic parents from the province of Almeria, MONTTEL retains the mores and customs inherited from his forefathers.
- b. Jose del BARRIO, commander of a Communist Division during the Spanish Civil War and formerly a member of the Political Bureau of the PCE. A poor orator but intelligent, he is quick-tempered and violently anti-Stalin. Described as the "soul" of Accion Socialista, del BARRIO, according to source, has thrown away what little prestige he had by associating himself with persons such as General Jose RIQUELIÆ Lopez-Bago and Dr. Juan AGUASCA Codina. Del BARRIO was accompanied to Yugoslavia by his wife and his 15-year-old daughter.

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CENTRAL INTILLIGENCE AGENCY

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c. Dr. Juan AGUASCA Codina, the first president in France of Union Nacional Espanol. As president of the Conjuncion Republicana y Resistente de Cataluña (CRRC), AGUASCA claimed to represent that group in the Commission. According to source, however, the CRRC opposed AGUASCA's participation. Actually, source stated, the prospect of remuneration had prompted AGUASCA to become a member of the Accion Socialista Organization Committee.

Antonio COLLADO Lopez, described as a commercial representative. A pedantic individual with political aspirations, COLLADO calls himself a "political leader", although he has no apparent following. Described by source as a charlatan who had never been successful in his intrigues, COLLADO entered Accion Socialista while in Yugoslavia, but source felt that his loyalty to the leaders of Accion Socialista was doubtful.

- e. Saturnino ARTAS del Ric, a metallurgical worker who left Spain in the fall of 1949. He is described by source as crude, violent, and a drunkard. He claimed to have been a member of the guerrilla forces in his home province of Galicia and said that he had been employed in the shipyards of El Ferrol.
- f. FORT Ferran (fnu), a member of the Organization Committee of Accion Socialista. FORT, although a journalist, is ignorant and crude and writes poorly, according to source.
- 2. Members not connected with Accion Socialista:
 - a. General Jose RIQUALMS Lopez-Bago, President of the Commission.
 - b. Juan ORTEGA, Secretary of the CRRC. He, like AGUACCA, participated in the Commission without the permission of his group.
 - s. Salvador BARTOLI, Secretary General of the Liga de Mutilados Catalanes de la Suerra de España.
 - d. Ramon MERINO, a former Republican Army officer and an affiliate of the Izculerda Republicana.
 - e. Carlos MERINO, son of Ramon MERINO.
 - f. Jose Antonio DIAZ, an active Mason and a Protestant clergyman who according to source was expelled from his pastorate in Spain for financial irregularities.
 - g. Juan MOLINA, an uneducated laborer, fanatically devoted to Jose del BARRIO.
 - h. Pascual ALBELIA, an ex-Mason and formerly a member of Izquierda Republicana. ALBELIA, source stated, went to Yugoslavia in the hope of establishing commercial contacts.
 - i. Rosario PANIACUA, mistress of Antonio CCLLADO Lopez.
 - j. Manuel PUTO Gasulla, a former labor leader and a moderate Catholic.
 - k. BORT-VELA (fnu), a Catalan journalist who remained in Yugoslavia to work with Radio Belgrade.
 - 1. Esteban RIDORZA, a strong anti-Communist.
 - ma Angel HARNANDEZ del Castillo, professional military man without affiliations.

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Since MONTIFL apparently was a member of the PCE Central Committee until late 1943 or early 1949, it is unlikely that he opposed IBARRURI as early as source indicates.

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